(ii) 1987—Ist position in Long Jump in SAF Games held at Calcutta.

(iii) 1988—No laurels.

(iv) 1989—Member of the Indian Relay team which won Gold Medal in the 4x400 Metres relay at Asian Track & Field Meet held at New Delhi.

(c) and (d) It is not fact that Ms. Mercy Kuttan was overlooked for the Arjuna Award in 1982, 1983 and 1988. She was duly considered along with others.

The criteria for selection are that the sports persons concerned should have had excellent and outstanding performances in the three preceding years, besides the achievement of excellence during the year for which the Award is given. In consideration of these criteria, the Awards were given in 1982 to Ms. Valsamma and in 1983 to Ms. P. T. Usha. Based on the same criteria and keeping in view Ms. Mercy Kuttan's performance as stated in reply to part (b), Ms. Ashwini Nachappa was chosen for the Award in 1989.

Ms. Mercy Kuttan had represented to the Government against this decision in respect of the Arjuna Award, 1988. Government have examined her representation and explained to her the reasons why she could not be recommended for the Award in 1988.

(e) The matter has been thoroughly examined by the Government.

(f) While clarifying to Ms. Kuttan the reasons for not giving her the Arjuna Award, 1988, Government have expressed the hope that she would keep up the spirit of Sportsmanship and continue participating in Sports activity. She has also been informed that the Department is very impressed with her performance and will consider her performance for other Awards.

Cleaning of Shipra River

2387. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the schemes drawn out for cleaning of Shipra river and for preventing pollution of the waters thereof;

(b) the progress made so far in implementation thereof, project-wise and by when the same are likely to be completed; and

(c) the expenditure incurred so far in respect of each project, the original estimated cost thereof and the likely cost by completion of each one?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY): (a) The State Government of Madhya Pradesh is implementing an action plan for cleaning the Shipra river. A total amount of Rs. 204.30 lakhs has been sanctioned for 11 schemes.

(b) As of June, 1990, out of a total of 11 schemes, 3 schemes have been completed. 6 schemes are in progress and the remaining 2 schemes are in the various stages of preparation. The works are targeted to be completed by December, 1991

(c) The expenditure incurred upto June 1990 on these works is Rs. 87.83 lakhs. The likely cost of the schemes at the time of completion cannot be indicated at this stage.

Upgradation/augmentation of Indian Coast Guard Ships

2388. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the New Vessels of Pakistan Maritime Agency are

equipped with 30 mm guns which are better and heavier than those on Indian Coast Guard ships as reportedly observed by the Director General, Coast Guard on June 27, 1990;

(b) if so, what is the present strength of Indian Coast Guard ships and the guns on them, as compared to those of their counterparts in Pakistan; and

(c) what is the scheme for upgrading and augmenting the Indian Coast Guards fleet equipment so as to be able to guard the coastal belt effectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) and (b) The recently acquired Pakistani Maritime Agency vessels are equipped with modern 30 mm guns. Our Coast Guard vessels are equipped with the older 40/60 Bofors guns. The strength of Coast Guard Fleet and their fire power are determined according to the roles assigned to the Coast Guard vessels.

(c) The augmentation of Coast Guard Fleet and its modernisation are undertaken in accordance with the Coast Guard Development Five Year Plans.

Alleged misleading of Swedish Newspaper "Degens Nyheter" by investigation team in Bofors Gun deal

2389. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Swedish Newspaper DEGENS NYHETER has tendered an unqualified apology to Shri Ajitabh Bachchan in a libel suit filed by him against the newspaper for publishing a report, linking him with the Bofors Gun deal;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in the proceedings, the said newspaper had blamed the CBI and the persons directly involved in the investigations into the deal on behalf of Government of India, for misleading both the correspondent and the editor of the newspaper; and

(c) if so, what are the names of such persons who have misled the Swedish newspaper?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) The Ministry of Defence has no information in the matter.

(b) and (c) According to the CBI, no officer of the Government of India who was associated with the investigation at any stage had anything to do with the story published by Degens Nyheter on 31-1-1990.

मंत्रिमण्डल सचिव द्वारा हिन्दुस्तान टाइम्स को दिया गया साक्षात्कार

2390. **डा० रत्नाकर पाण्डेय :**

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय :

क्या **प्रधान मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान जुलाई 1990 के अन्तिम सप्ताह में हिन्दुस्तान टाइम्स में मंत्रिमण्डल सचिव द्वारा दिए गए साक्षात्कार की ओर दिलाया गया है जिसमें राजनीतिक और प्रशासनिक मसलों प उनके विचा प्रकाशित किय गये हैं ;

(ख) क्या उन्होंने साक्षात्कार को देने से पहले सरकार की अनुमति ली थी; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो उस पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?

प्रधान मंत्री (श्री विश्वनाथ प्रताप सिंह): (क) से (ग) सरकार ने हिन्दुस्तान टाइम्स में प्रकाशित मंत्रिमण्डल सचिव के साथ हुए साक्षात्कार को देखा है । साक्षात्कार के दौरान विभिन्न मुद्दों पर चर्चा की गई । इस साक्षात्कार में सरकारी नीतियों या राजनैतिक पार्टियों की आलोचना नहीं की गई थी ।

वर्तमान आशुदेशों के अनुसार भारत सरकार के सचिव स्तर के अधिकारी सरकार की पूर्वानुमति के बिना प्रेस के साथ बातचीत